

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. – 26. [Canceled]

27. [Currently Amended] ~~The receptacle according to claim 26,~~ A receptacle having a proximal end and a distal end, comprising: an outer wall and an inner wall fixed relative to said outer wall, said outer wall and inner wall together defining an annular portion therebetween; and an inner space defined by said inner wall open at each of said proximal end and said distal end, enabling passage of fluid via said inner space whilst holding said fluid within said annular portion, the receptacle further comprising a conduit, adapted for insertion into the inner space so as to allow the fluid to exit therefrom via said conduit, wherein said conduit is configured such that the flowing of a fluid there through imparts rotation to said receptacle.

28. [Currently Amended] The receptacle according to claim ~~25~~27, for use in changing the temperature of a biological sample, said sample being characterized by a cross-sectional dimension along which the change of temperature may be performed with a predetermined acceptable resultant quality of the sample,

wherein: said annular portion has a distance between said inner wall and said outer wall not exceeding said cross-sectional dimension of the sample.

29. [Previously presented] The receptacle according to claim 27, wherein the receptacle has a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end, and the inner wall defines an inner space extending along said longitudinal axis, and a substantially round cross-section taken perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis, and the inner space is open at both the proximal end and distal end of the receptacle.

30. [Canceled]

31. [Currently Amended] The method according to claim ~~30~~38, wherein the liquid is a biological sample comprising sperm.

32. [Canceled]

33. [Currently Amended] The method according to Claim ~~30~~38, wherein the receptacle has a longitudinal axis and a substantially round cross-section taken perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis.

34. [Currently Amended] The method according to claim ~~32~~38, wherein the inner space is open at both the proximal end and distal end of the receptacle.

35. [Currently Amended] The method according to claim ~~32~~38, further comprising providing an environment with a temperature gradient in a given direction and wherein step c is performed at least partially by passing the receptacle in said environment along said direction, with the longitudinal axis of the receptacle being parallel to said direction.

36. [Canceled]

37. [Canceled]

38. [Currently Amended] A method of changing the temperature of a liquid sample, comprising:

a. providing a receptacle having an outer wall and an inner wall fixed relative to said outer wall, said outer wall and inner wall together defining an annular portion therebetween for receiving therein said liquid sample, wherein said receptacle has a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end, and the inner wall defines an inner space extending along said longitudinal axis, and wherein said annular portion of said receptacle is sealed at the distal end and sealable at the proximal end of the receptacle by a plug having a corresponding annular sealing portion, and further having a bore surrounded by the annular sealing portion, and wherein said

bore is adapted to be aligned with the inner space of the receptacle providing a passage thereto;

b. inserting said liquid sample, at a first temperature, into said annular portion; and

c. exposing said receptacle to a second temperature different from said first

temperature. ~~The method according to claim 37, wherein the plug has a bore surrounded by the annular sealing portion and said bore is adapted to be aligned with the inner space of the receptacle providing a passage thereto.~~

39. [Currently Amended] The method according to claim 3738, wherein the plug is made of a resilient material.

40. [Currently Amended] The method according to Claim 3738, wherein the method further comprises after step b, sealing the annular portion at the proximal end of the receptacle with the annular sealing portion of the plug.

41. [Currently Amended] ~~The method according to Claim 37, wherein there is~~

A method of changing the temperature of a liquid sample, comprising:

a. providing a receptacle having an outer wall and an inner wall fixed relative to said

outer wall, said outer wall and inner wall together defining an annular portion

therebetween for receiving therein said liquid sample, wherein said receptacle has

a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end, and the inner wall defines an

inner space extending along said longitudinal axis, and wherein said annular

portion of said receptacle is sealed at the distal end and sealable at the proximal end of the receptacle by a plug having a corresponding annular sealing portion;

b. inserting said liquid sample, at a first temperature, into said annular portion; and

c. exposing said receptacle to a second temperature different from said first temperature;

the method further comprising providing a wand associated with the plug, and wherein ~~the step of sealing~~ the annular portion of the receptacle at the proximal end thereof is performed sealed by:

- i. inserting the plug into the proximal end of the receptacle so that a portion of said wand enters the annular portion of the receptacle together with said annular sealing portion of the plug, whereby sealing of the annular portion of the receptacle is prevented in the area of contact of the wand with one of the inner or outer walls of the receptacle, and
- ii. removing the wand such that the proximal end of the annular portion of the receptacle becomes fully sealed.

42. [Currently Amended] The method according to claim ~~30~~38, wherein step c comprises providing a heat transfer fluid at the second temperature for flowing around the receptacle and into the inner space via one of the proximal or distal ends and out of the other.

43. [Previously presented] The method according to claim 42 further comprising, before step c:

1. providing a conduit tightly insertable in the inner space of the receptacle at the proximal end thereof, being adapted to direct the heat transfer fluid flowing out of the inner space so as not to enter the annular portion, and
2. inserting said conduit into the inner space at said proximal end.

44. [Currently Amended] ~~The method according to claim 43, wherein the conduit~~

A method of changing the temperature of a liquid sample, comprising:

- a. providing a receptacle having an outer wall and an inner wall fixed relative to said outer wall, said outer wall and inner wall together defining an annular portion therebetween for receiving therein said liquid sample;
- b. inserting said liquid sample, at a first temperature, into said annular portion;
- c. providing a conduit tightly insertable in the inner space of the receptacle at the proximal end thereof, being adapted to direct the heat transfer fluid flowing out of the inner space so as not to enter the annular portion, wherein said conduit is configured such that the flowing of the heat transfer fluid therethrough imparts rotation to the receptacle;
- d. inserting said conduit into the inner space at said proximal end ; and
- e. exposing said receptacle to a second temperature different from said first temperature and providing a heat transfer fluid at the second temperature for

flowing around the receptacle and into the inner space via one of the proximal or distal ends and out of the other.

45. [Canceled]

46. [Currently Amended] The receptacle according to claim ~~25~~27, wherein the inner wall is securely fixed in place within the receptacle and configured sufficient to prevent said inner wall from longitudinal movement with respect to said outer wall.